

# BIENVILLE



# PARISH

*“...the health of a community is a shared responsibility of many entities, organizations and interests in the community, including health services delivery organizations, public health agencies, other public and private entities and the people of a community.”*

– Institute of Medicine. 1996. *Healthy Communities: New Partnerships for the Future of Public Health*. National Academy Press. p. 12



# Bienville Parish

## **Regional Office of Public Health**

*Jerre Perry, Regional  
Administrator  
Northwest Regional  
Office  
1525 Fairfield Ave., Rm.  
569  
Shreveport, LA 71101-  
4388  
318-676-7489  
318-676-7560 fax*

## **History<sup>1</sup>**

Originally part of Natchitoches Parish, Bienville was established on March 14, 1848. It was named in honor of Jean Baptiste Sieur de Bienville, colonizer of Louisiana and founder of the city of New Orleans. The village of Mount Lebanon was settled in 1847 by immigrants from South Carolina. It was the site of the first Baptist church in North Louisiana. The Baptist Convention organized and founded Mount Lebanon University in 1855. During the Civil War, the school was closed and the building used as a hospital. In later years, the college was moved to Pineville and reopened as Louisiana College.

## **Culture and Recreation<sup>3</sup>**

Bienville Parish is host to a bounty of lakes and reservoirs offering pleasure to all fishing and water sports enthusiasts. Kepler Creek Lake offers fishing and boating opportunities, and features the “Blue Hole,” a scenic fishing spot. The Mill Creek Reservoir offers fishing and outdoor recreation, as does “Saline Lake,” Ringgold’s southwestern swatch of Lake Bistineau State Game and Fish Preserve. There are also festivals held each year in Bienville Parish: the Slabtown Festival in April; the Authentic Bonnie & Clyde Festival; Possums Unlimited Festival; and the Saline Watermelon Festival. Bienville Parish also boasts several museums showcasing the rich cultural history of the parish. The State Coach Train Museum houses antiques, turn-of-the-century clothing, and a blacksmith shop to mention a few of the attractions. The Bienville Historic Depot Museum is housed in the oldest depot between Shreveport and Vicksburg, circa 1884. The nation’s only Civil War naval museum is in Arcadia.

**Parish Seat<sup>1</sup>** ..... Arcadia<sup>1</sup>

**Major Cities**(over 5,000 population)<sup>2</sup>

None

## **Parish Population<sup>2</sup>**

1990 ..... 15,979

1997 (estimate) ..... 15,707

Breakdown of 1996 population (estimates)<sup>6</sup>

White ..... 54%

African American ..... 46%

Other ..... 0%

Male .....	48%
Female .....	52%
Population age 0-4 .....	7%
Population age 65 & over .....	19%

## Geography and Statistics<sup>2</sup>

Average elevation .....	360 ft.
Land area in square miles .....	810.7
Water area in square miles <sup>4</sup> .....	11.1

## Climate<sup>2</sup>

### Average temperatures

Annual .....	66°
January .....	51°
July .....	81°
Annual average rainfall .....	66.1 in.

## Labor Force (1995)<sup>1</sup>

Civilian .....	6,420
Employed .....	5,790
Unemployed .....	630
Unemployment .....	9.9%

## Colleges/Universities<sup>2</sup>

(within one hour commute)

*Shreveport*

Centenary College; Louisiana State University; Southern University

*Bossier*

Bossier Parish Community College

*Grambling*

Grambling State University

*Pineville*

Louisiana College

*Ruston*

Louisiana Tech University

*Monroe*

Northeast Louisiana University

**Public Libraries<sup>5</sup> .....** 2

## Educational Attainment (1990)<sup>7</sup>

Less than 5th grade	5.6%
High school graduate or higher	62.6%
Some college or higher	25.0%
Bachelor's degree or higher	9.3%

## Major Employers (Products) and Number of Employees<sup>2</sup>

### Private Employers

Randell Farms (Poultry processing)	700
Willamette Industries (Plywood sheeting)	220
Stone Container Corporation (High density bags)	150

### Public Employers

Bienville Parish School System (Education)	439
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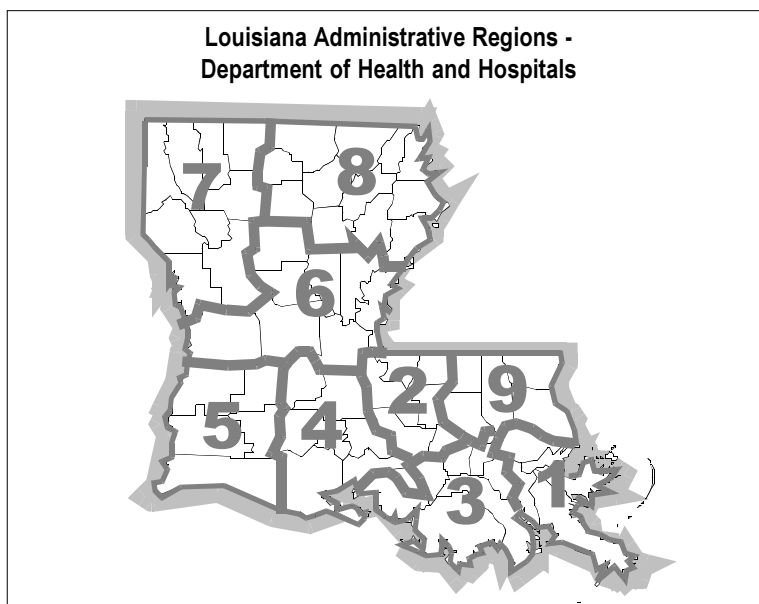
## Poverty and Income

Persons in poverty (1995) <sup>7</sup>	24.9%
Children under age 18 in poverty <sup>7</sup>	36.4%
Per capita income (1996) <sup>8</sup>	\$15,610



### References

- <sup>1</sup> Louisiana Almanac. 1997. Louisiana Almanac, Pelican Press. Gretna, LA
- <sup>2</sup> Louisiana Department of Economic Development. 1999. Louisiana Overview. keyword: overview <http://lled.state.la.us>
- <sup>3</sup> Louisiana Office of Tourism. 1998. keywords: regional information <http://www.crt.state.la.us/crt/tourism.htm>
- <sup>4</sup> Police Jury Association of Louisiana. <http://www.lpgov.org/>
- <sup>5</sup> State Library of Louisiana. keyword: directories <http://smt.state.lib.la.us/>
- <sup>6</sup> U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. Population Estimates. 1998. keywords: parish name <http://www.census.gov/datamap/www/22.html>
- <sup>7</sup> U.S. Bureau of the Census. 1998. keywords: people, poverty, small area income and poverty estimates <http://www.census.gov>
- <sup>8</sup> U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration. 1999. keywords: economics and statistical administration <http://www.doc.gov>



#### Region 1

Jefferson  
Orleans  
Plaquemines  
St. Bernard

#### Region 2

Ascension  
East Baton Rouge  
East Feliciana  
Iberville  
Pointe Coupee  
West Baton Rouge  
West Feliciana

#### Region 3

Assumption  
Lafourche  
St. Charles  
St. James  
St. John  
St. Mary  
Terrebonne

#### Region 4

Acadia  
Evangeline  
Iberia  
Lafayette  
St. Landry  
St. Martin  
Vermillion

#### Region 5

Allen  
Beauregard  
Calcasieu  
Cameron  
Jefferson Davis

#### Region 6

Avoyelles  
Catahoula  
Concordia  
Grant  
LaSalle  
Rapides  
Vernon  
Winn

#### Region 7

Bienville  
Bossier  
Caddo  
Claiborne  
DeSoto  
Natchitoches  
Red River  
Sabine  
Webster

#### Region 8

Caldwell  
East Carroll  
Franklin  
Jackson  
Lincoln  
Madison  
Morehouse  
Ouachita  
Richland  
Tensas  
Union  
West Carroll

#### Region 9

Livingston  
St. Helena  
St. Tammany  
Tangipahoa  
Washington